

THESIS ABSTRACT

THESIS: The Mechanics of Jewelry

STUDENT: Joshua D Sanchez

DEGREE: Master of Arts

COLLEGE: Fine Arts

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In this project I explored the relationships between mechanics, industrialized components such as gears and screws, and their combined potential for jewelry objects. The challenge of mechanical jewelry was in the design, integration and fabrication of industrial components with typical jewelry components such as gemstones, and precious metals. The research of gear mechanics and configurations was essential in ensuring that these works were not only aesthetically pleasing, but also functional. Traditional jewelry manufacturing skills such as piercing and soldering were implemented in the creation of the work, but these were also intermingled with industrial ideas such as assembly and tension. A body of work was created with these elements and challenges in mind.